

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Division of Victim Assistance and Forensic Science



**Annual
Report**
FY 2025

A L A S K A
Violent Crimes
Compensation
Board

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Public Safety

Division of Victim Assistance and Forensic Science

Violent Crimes Compensation Board FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

THE HONORABLE MIKE DUNLEAVY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA,
MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE:

We are pleased to submit the fiftieth Annual Report of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

This report highlights the ongoing efforts of the Administration and the Thirty-Fourth Legislature to support victims of violent crimes across Alaska and fulfills the reporting requirements of Alaska Statute 18.67.170.

Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of our mission, ensuring that Alaskans are informed about how their government serves them. The VCCB was established to alleviate the financial burdens innocent victims face as a direct result of violent criminal acts. Compensation is available to both direct and indirect victims of crimes such as homicide, assault, arson, robbery, kidnapping, DUI, human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. These funds help cover essential expenses, including medical bills, counseling, funeral costs, and other losses related to the crime.

The Board and staff of the VCCB are honored to serve the people of Alaska in this vital capacity.

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

OUR STORY

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) was established in 1972, *making it **one of the first compensation programs of its kind in the nation.*** Initially led by a volunteer board of three and supported by a small staff of three, the Board awarded \$3,836 to 15 claimants in its first year of operation.

In 1984, federal legislation was enacted to assist state-run compensation programs, and [today, similar programs exist in all 50 states and US territories.](#)

Over the years, the VCCB has worked to improve operational efficiencies and expand access to better serve victims of violent crime in Alaska. Today, the agency is guided by three appointed, volunteer board members, supported by a dedicated staff of five who manage the day-to-day operations and ensure victims receive the financial assistance they need.

In FY 2026 VCCB became part of the new Division of Victim Assistance and Forensic Science under the Department of Public Safety.

OUR MISSION

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) exists to provide financial relief to innocent victims of violent crime and their families. The Board works to alleviate the economic burdens caused by criminal acts. Through compassionate support and efficient service, we aim to restore dignity and promote healing for those affected by violence, ensuring that no victim in Alaska faces their recovery alone.

OUR IMPACT

"Thank you so much for being a wonderful help during this time in our lives. You were and are a godsend to people in need."

~Program Applicant

Funding

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) is entirely funded through fines and fees collected from convicted offenders.

State funding is provided through the Alaska Restorative Justice Account, which allocates between 10 and 13 percent of its revenue to the Board each year, in accordance with AS 43.23.048. The Restorative Justice Account is primarily supported by Permanent Fund Dividends withheld from convicted offenders and restitution collected on behalf of the State. **As the annual Permanent Fund Dividend varies, so too does the funding available to support victims.**

Federal support is received through formula-based awards from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Compensation Fund. The VOCA Fund, like the State program, is financed through fines, fees, and penalties paid by federal offenders. Each year's federal award is based on a percentage of the compensation payments made by the State in prior years.



PAYER OF LAST RESORT

Violent crime compensation serves as a payer of last resort, providing a critical safety net for many Alaskans. Reimbursements cover only those expenses not already addressed through restitution, insurance, or other financial resources.

Recognizing that compensation requires careful verification and processing, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) coordinates with alternative funding sources, including insurance and Tribal assistance programs, to ensure that support is distributed efficiently and appropriately.

Process & Eligibility

The Process

VCCB staff collect information to determine eligibility and assess victims' needs, requesting documentation from law enforcement, medical providers, employers, and applicants as needed. After completing the investigation, staff submit a recommendation to the Executive Director, who reviews and makes a determination. Cases involving contributory conduct or special requests outside of policy are referred to the Board.

This process was implemented in December 2024, and has expedited case reviews by allowing most to be adjudicated administratively. Denied applicants may request reconsideration, and if the Board upholds the decision, they may appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Once an application is approved staff may issue payments under established policies and procedures.

To be eligible, a person must...

1

Report the crime to law enforcement within 5 days of the crime or when a report could reasonably have been made.

Crimes must be reported to law enforcement. There does not need to be a charge, but VCCB does need to confirm that a crime occurred.

2

File the application within 2 years from the date of the crime.

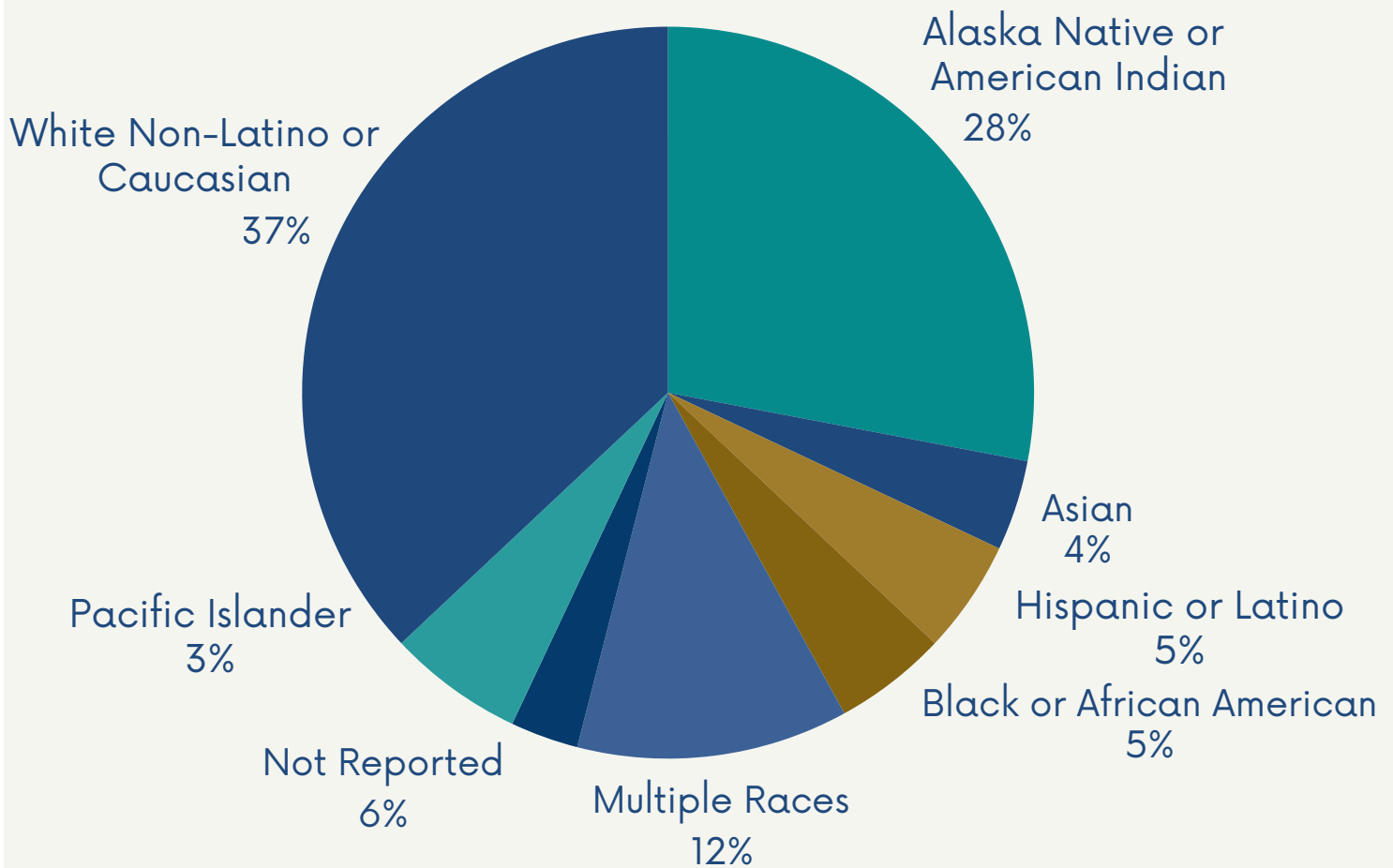
Exceptions may exist for crimes involving minors and or cases where a crime was later determined to have occurred.

3

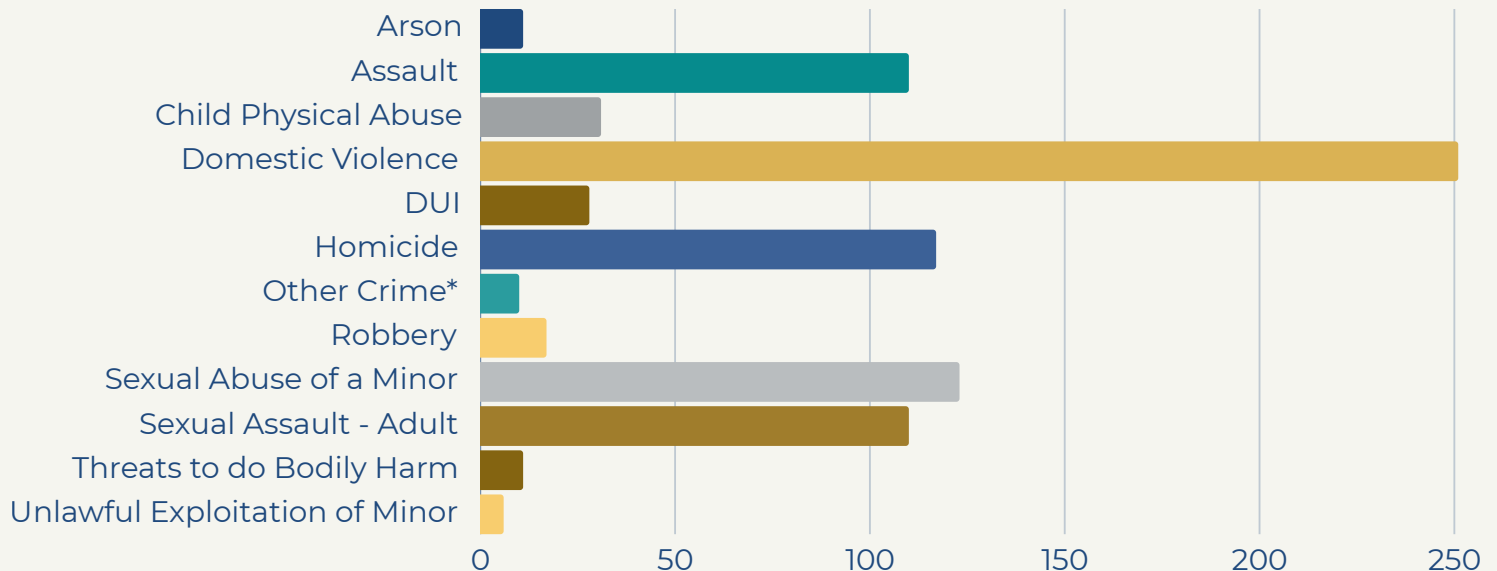
Be an innocent person victimized in Alaska; or be an Alaska Resident victimized in a US territory or foreign country without a compensation program.

If an applicant participated in the crime or was otherwise engaged in criminal activity their application may be denied.

Who are we serving?



Victims of:



*These statistics are based off new applications and do not represent ongoing cases.
 "Other Crime" includes victims of kidnapping, stalking, trafficking and vehicular assault.

72%

Applications
Approved

13%

Applications denied¹

15%

Applications closed or
deferred - pending
additional information²

77

Alaska communities
represented among
applicants

These figures reflect the 860 new applications received during State Fiscal Year 2025 and do not include the 603 ongoing cases from prior years that continued to receive assistance.

¹ The most common reason for denial in FY25 was that the application involved an ineligible crime, such as theft.

² Applications may also be administratively closed for various reasons; in FY25, the primary cause for closure without resolution was an incomplete application or lack of response from the applicant. By the close of FY25, 3% of cases were deferred pending additional information.

982

Cases with a payment

\$1,066,506

Funds distributed



Expenses Allocation



Crime types served

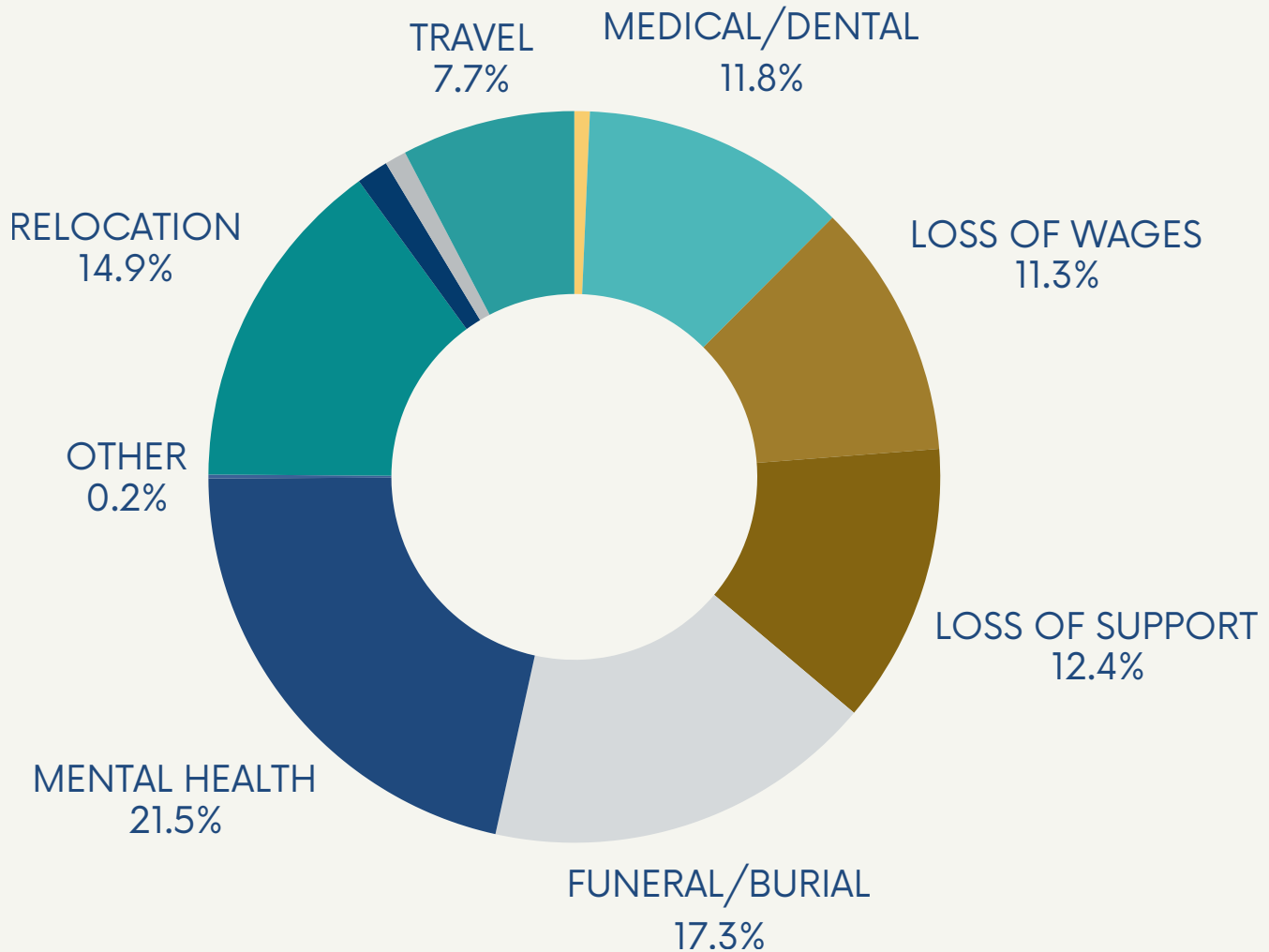
VCCB pays expenses on behalf of victims of violent crime as allowable. The list below contains crimes that are considered eligible under AS 18.67.101:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Criminally negligent homicide
- Assault
- Kidnapping
- Sexual assault
- Sexual abuse of a minor (SAM)
- Robbery
- Threats to do bodily harm
- Driving under the influence (DUI)
- Arson
- Sex trafficking
- Human trafficking
- Unlawful exploitation of a minor

NOTE:

The amount of funding allocated from VCCB does not indicate the level of need for a survivor. It only represents the **costs not covered by an alternative funding source** such as insurance.

Expenses Allocation



What is covered?

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) reimburses expenses that are directly and reasonably incurred as a result of a qualifying violent crime. The program does not cover pre-existing expenses or provide compensation for pain and suffering. In accordance with statute, policy guidelines, and available funding, VCCB may not fully reimburse all crime-related costs in every case.

Each expense category not otherwise listed above individually accounted for less than two percent of total program expenditures.

Examples of covered expenses include:

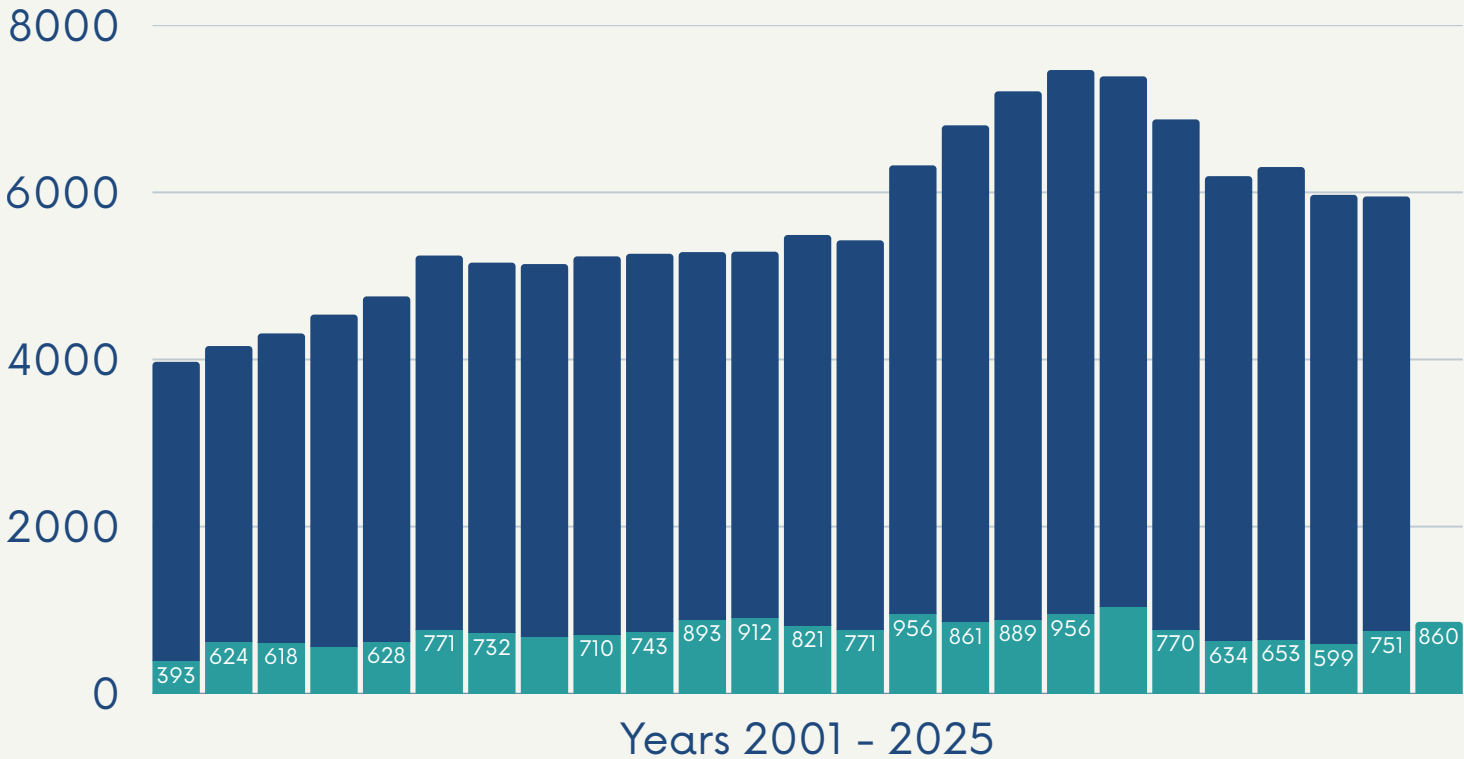
- Crime Scene Clean-up
- Evidence Replacement
- Funeral and Burial Expenses
- Loss of Wages or Income
- Medical Expenses
- Mental Health Services
- Loss of Support
- Relocation Expenses
- Security Measures
- Travel Expenses

The number of applications received each year represents **only a fraction of those who experience violent crime in Alaska**. This gap underscores that many victims who may be eligible for assistance are not yet being reached or served through the program.

APPLICATIONS COMPARED TO VIOLENT CRIME IN ALASKA

While crime data are reported by calendar year and new applications by fiscal year, this difference is minimal. Each violent crime represents one or more potential eligible victims.

- New Applications
- Violent Crimes Reported Each Year



*Alaska crime report data for 2024 and 2025 have not yet been released

Importantly, the effects of violent crime are often long-term, and the need for assistance can continue for years after an incident. In addition to new applications represented on this graph, in FY25, the Board continued to provide support to over 600 cases not represented on this graph.

43%

Increase in new applications since 2023

>8%

Increase in new applications compared to 2024

603

Ongoing cases from years prior

860

New Applications processed

Moving Forward

Over the past three years, the Board has seen a 43.6% increase in applications, reflecting both growing awareness and efforts to improve outreach and accessibility.

Recent efforts to expand access and meet the needs of more victims include:

- Simplifying the application process and increasing staff availability to assist applicants.
- Developing victim-centered communication materials and outreach strategies.
- Strengthening partnerships with advocacy agencies and Tribal organizations.
- Modernizing internal processes to ensure faster eligibility determinations and payments.

In 2026 the Board will continue to provide training and outreach, as well as solicit recommendations from the public.

Expense Detail

Summary

Restitution Collected \$60,751.22	Total Distributed \$1,066,506	Average per applicant FY2020-FY2025 <\$3,800
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FUNDING BY CRIME	
CRIME	AMOUNT
ARSON	\$1,762.49
ASSAULT	\$159,873.94
CHILD ABUSE	\$34,841.34
DOMESTIC VIOLNCE	\$249,350.73
DUI	\$93,513.73
HOMICIDE	\$316,141.86
KIDNAPPING	\$2,450.00
ROBBERY	\$2,236.73
SEXUAL ASSAULT - ADULT	\$43,444.08
SEXUAL ABUSE - MINOR	\$158,841.23
STALKING	\$579.97
TRAFFICKING	\$1,040.00
VEHICULAR ASSAULT	\$2,429.52

FUNDING BY EXPENSE TYPE	
TYPE	AMOUNT
CRIME SCENE CLEAN-UP	\$7,235.16
DENTAL	\$19,790.87
FUNERAL AND BURIAL	\$183,964.16
LOSS OF SUPPORT (HOMICIDE)	\$131,519.88
LOST WAGES	\$120,237.23
MEDICAL	\$107,161.14
MENTAL HEALTH	\$230,205.68
OTHER TYPE OF SERVICE	\$1,775.38
RELOCATION	\$158,147.65
REPLACEMENT	\$13,273.09
SECURITY	\$11,819.58
TRIAL/TRANSPORT	\$81,375.80

Additionally, VCCB staff negotiated over **\$26,000 in reductions** for victims ensuring no additional payments after VCCB coverage.

ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

SUPPORTING ALASKANS IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE

At the heart of our work is a commitment to helping victims of crime in Alaska recover and move forward. We thank our skilled volunteer Board of three for their time, insight, and dedication throughout the year—your leadership makes a meaningful difference.

FY 2025 BOARD



Greg Bringham
(Resigned December 2024)



Dr. Robert (Bob) Urata



Anna Cometa